CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Isaiah Chapter 61 — The Anointed One and the Year of the Lord's Favor

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Isaiah Chapter 61 is one of the clearest messianic passages in the book of Isaiah.

It begins with:

> **"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me."**

The speaker is:

Anointed.

Sent.

Empowered.

Commissioned.

His mission is directed toward:

The humble.

The brokenhearted.

The captives.

The bound.

The mourners.

The ashamed.

The ruined.

The devastated.

The chapter therefore begins not with:

Human strength.

But:

Divine anointing.

Not with:

Self-appointed ministry.

But:

God-sent ministry.

Not with:

Religious status.

But:

Good news for broken people.

Jesus directly read from Isaiah 61 in the synagogue at Nazareth.

After reading the words concerning:

The Spirit.

Good news.

Liberty.

Recovery.

Favor.

He declared:

> **“Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”**

That makes Isaiah 61 especially important for understanding:

The mission of Jesus Christ.

He identifies Himself with:

The Spirit-anointed Servant.

The One proclaiming:

Good news.

Freedom.

Healing.

Favor.

Jesus did not merely say Isaiah 61 contained:

A useful principle.

He said it was being:

Fulfilled.

The chapter also contains one of Isaiah's strongest restoration patterns.

God gives:

Beauty instead of ashes.

Joy instead of mourning.

Praise instead of despair.

A double portion instead of shame.

Righteousness instead of disgrace.

Rebuilt cities instead of ruins.

An everlasting covenant instead of instability.

This repeated phrase:

"Instead of"

Is central to the chapter.

God does not merely:

Remove sorrow.

He gives:

Joy.

He does not merely:

Take ashes away.

He gives:

Beauty.

He does not merely:

Silence despair.

He gives:

Praise.

This is:

Redemptive replacement.

Then the people who are restored become:

Restorers.

Verse 4 says:

“They will rebuild the ancient ruins.”

The same pattern appeared in Isaiah 58.

God restores:

People.

Then restored people repair:

Broken places.

The chapter also gives God’s people a new identity:

“Priests of the Lord.”

“Ministers of our God.”

This reaches back to Israel’s calling in:

Exodus 19.

And the New Testament later applies priestly language to the people of God in:

1 Peter.

Revelation.

The chapter ends with:

Salvation.

Righteousness.

Joy.

Praise.

Growth.

And worldwide witness.

God causes righteousness and praise to:

Spring up.

Like:

Seed.

Like:

A garden.

The movement of the chapter is therefore:

Anointing.

Mission.

Healing.

Liberty.

Comfort.

Transformation.

Rebuilding.

Priestly service.

Covenant.

Salvation.

Righteousness.

Praise.

The central truth of Isaiah 61 is:

The Spirit-anointed Servant, fulfilled decisively in Jesus Christ, comes with good news for the humble, healing for the brokenhearted, liberty for captives, comfort for mourners, and the announcement of God's favor; through His saving work God transforms shame into honor, mourning into joy, ruins into restoration, and His covenant people into righteous worshipers and servants whose lives display His praise before the nations.

I. THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD GOD IS UPON ME

Isaiah 61:1 — The Anointed Mission

> **"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the humble. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and to open the prison for those who are bound."**

The mission begins with:

The Spirit.

The Servant does not operate merely through:

Natural ability.

Education.

Charisma.

Human authority.

He is:

Anointed by God.

Cross References

Luke 4:18

Jesus reads this passage in the synagogue and applies its Spirit-anointed mission to Himself, declaring good news for the poor, freedom for captives, and release for the oppressed.

Luke 4:21

After reading Isaiah, Jesus tells those listening that the Scripture has been fulfilled in their hearing.

Acts 10:38

Peter describes Jesus as anointed by God with the Holy Spirit and power, going about doing good and delivering those oppressed by the devil.

Spiritual Principle

True ministry begins with:

God’s Spirit.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A divine assignment requires more than human talent; it requires divine empowerment.

II. THE LORD HAS ANOINTED ME

Anointing signifies:

Appointment.

Consecration.

Empowerment.

Spiritual Principle

The Servant does not appoint:

Himself.

III. SENT BY THE LORD

The Servant is:

Commissioned.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The safest place in ministry is not where you chose to go, but where God sent you.

IV. GOOD NEWS TO THE HUMBLE

The message is:

Good news.

The audience:

The humble.

Spiritual Principle

Grace is welcomed by hearts that know:

Their need.

V. THE BROKENHEARTED

God does not merely deal with:

Behavior.

He heals:

Hearts.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Messiah does not only break chains around the hands; He heals wounds inside the heart.

VI. LIBERTY TO CAPTIVES

The language points toward:

Release.

Freedom.

Deliverance.

Spiritual Principle

Messianic salvation is:

Liberating.

VII. OPENING THE PRISON

Those bound are:

Released.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus does not decorate prisons of bondage; He opens doors.

VIII. THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOR

Isaiah 61:2 — Favor, Judgment, and Comfort

> **"To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn,"**

Two dimensions:

Favor.

Vengeance.

Comfort.

Cross References

Luke 4:19

Jesus reads the proclamation of the Lord's favorable year in Nazareth.

2 Corinthians 6:2

Paul declares that now is the favorable time and now is the day of salvation.

Leviticus 25:10

The Jubilee year proclaimed liberty throughout the land, returning people and property and providing a powerful background for Isaiah's language of release and favor.

Spiritual Principle

God's salvation includes:

Grace for the repentant.

Judgment against persistent evil.

IX. THE JUBILEE BACKGROUND

The “year of favor” naturally recalls:

Jubilee.

Freedom.

Restoration.

Release.

Return.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Messiah announces a greater liberation than any earthly Jubilee could fully provide.

X. JESUS STOPS BEFORE “THE DAY OF VENGEANCE”

In Luke 4, Jesus reads the favorable-year portion and stops before completing Isaiah’s phrase concerning:

The day of vengeance.

This does not mean judgment disappears.

It highlights the character of His first public proclamation:

Grace.

Good news.

Salvation.

The New Testament still teaches future:

Judgment.

Spiritual Principle

Christ’s saving invitation is real.

So is:

Final accountability.

XI. COMFORT FOR MOURNERS

The Anointed One comes to people who:

Grieve.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not tell mourners merely to stop crying; He comes near with comfort.

XII. BEAUTY INSTEAD OF ASHES

Isaiah 61:3 — Holy Replacement

> **“To provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and the garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”**

Three exchanges:

Beauty for ashes.

Joy for mourning.

Praise for despair.

Cross References

Psalm 30:11

God turns mourning into dancing and replaces sorrow with joy.

Matthew 5:4

Jesus declares the mourners blessed because they will be comforted.

Isaiah 60:21

God’s restored people are described as His planting and the work of His hands for the display of His splendor.

Spiritual Principle

Grace creates:

Holy replacement.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not merely remove the ashes; He gives beauty in their place.

XIII. ASHES

Ashes symbolize:

Mourning.

Grief.

Loss.

Humiliation.

Spiritual Principle

God acknowledges:

The ashes.

XIV. BEAUTY

Restoration does not merely:

Stop grief.

It creates:

New dignity.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

What sorrow covered in ashes, grace can crown with beauty.

XV. OIL OF JOY

Oil often symbolized:

Gladness.

Celebration.

Honor.

Spiritual Principle

God can restore:

Emotional life.

XVI. GARMENT OF PRAISE

Despair is pictured like:

A heavy spirit.

Praise becomes:

A garment.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can change what your soul wears.

XVII. OAKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

No longer:

Fragile.

Unstable.

Broken.

Now:

Oaks.

Strong.

Rooted.

Enduring.

Spiritual Principle

Grace creates:

Stability.

XVIII. A PLANTING OF THE LORD

God receives:

Credit.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The oak cannot boast that it planted itself.

XIX. THAT HE MAY BE GLORIFIED

The purpose of restoration:

God’s glory.

Spiritual Principle

Redemption points:

Upward.

XX. THE RESTORED BECOME RESTORERS

Isaiah 61:4 — Rebuilding Ancient Ruins

> **“They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.”**

Who rebuilds?

Those who were:

Comforted.

Healed.

Restored.

Cross References

Isaiah 58:12

God’s people rebuild ancient ruins and become repairers of broken walls and restorers of streets.

Amos 9:14

God promises restoration in which ruined cities are rebuilt and inhabited.

Jeremiah 33:7

God promises to restore Judah and Israel and rebuild them as before.

Spiritual Principle

Restoration produces:

Restorers.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can turn the person who lived among ruins into the person who rebuilds them.

XXI. ANCIENT RUINS

Some damage is:

Old.

Generational.

Deep.

Spiritual Principle

Age does not make brokenness:

Irreversible.

XXII. LONG-DEVASTATED PLACES

Some wounds last:

Years.

Generations.

Still:

Restoration remains possible.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never confuse “broken for generations” with “broken forever.”

XXIII. STRANGERS SERVE

Isaiah 61:5 — Nations Participate in Restoration

> **“Strangers will shepherd your flocks, and foreigners will work your fields and vineyards.”**

Former outsiders become:

Participants.

Cross References

Isaiah 60:10

Foreigners rebuild Zion’s walls and kings participate in her restoration.

Isaiah 14:1

Foreigners join themselves to Jacob within God’s restoring work.

Ephesians 2:19

Gentile believers are no longer strangers and foreigners but fellow citizens and members of God’s household.

Spiritual Principle

God can turn:

Strangers.

Into:

Helpers.

XXIV. THE NATIONS AND ZION

This passage reflects:

Israel’s restoration.

But it also participates in Isaiah’s larger vision of:

The nations coming toward God’s light.

Spiritual Principle

God’s restoration has:

International dimensions.

XXV. PRIESTS OF THE LORD

Isaiah 61:6 — A Priestly People

> **“But you will be called priests of the Lord; they will name you ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast.”**

The people receive:

Priestly identity.

Cross References

Exodus 19:6

Israel is called to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

1 Peter 2:9

Believers are described as a chosen people, royal priesthood, holy nation, and people belonging to God who proclaim His excellencies.

Revelation 1:6

Christ makes His redeemed people a kingdom and priests serving God.

Spiritual Principle

God restores people for:

Service.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Redemption does not merely give you something to enjoy; it gives you someone to represent.

XXVI. MINISTERS OF OUR GOD

Priesthood means:

Service.

Worship.

Representation.

Spiritual Principle

Privilege creates:

Responsibility.

XXVII. PRIESTLY CALLING AND THE NATIONS

God’s people are not to:

Consume blessing privately.

They represent:

God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A priestly people exist to bring God near to people and people near to God.

XXVIII. DOUBLE PORTION INSTEAD OF SHAME

Isaiah 61:7 — Everlasting Joy

> **“Instead of your shame, you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace, you will rejoice in your inheritance. So in your land you will inherit a double portion, and everlasting joy will be yours.”**

Again:

Instead of.

Shame replaced by:

Inheritance.

Disgrace replaced by:

Joy.

Cross References

Isaiah 40:2

Jerusalem is comforted with the announcement that her warfare and punishment have reached their appointed completion.

Zechariah 9:12

God promises prisoners of hope that He will restore double.

Job 42:10

After Job’s suffering, God restores his fortunes abundantly.

Spiritual Principle

God can reverse:

Shame.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Grace does not merely erase disgrace; it can replace it with inheritance.

XXIX. DOUBLE PORTION

The point emphasizes:

Abundant restoration.

Spiritual Principle

God’s restoration is not:

Bare minimum.

XXX. EVERLASTING JOY

Not:

Temporary excitement.

Everlasting:

Joy.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

What God ultimately gives lasts longer than what shame took away.

XXXI. THE LORD LOVES JUSTICE

Isaiah 61:8 — Everlasting Covenant

> **“For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In My faithfulness I will reward My people and make an everlasting covenant with them.”**

God declares:

What He loves.

What He hates.

Love:

Justice.

Hate:

Robbery.

Wrongdoing.

Cross References

Amos 5:21

God rejects religious ceremonies when worship is disconnected from righteousness and justice.

Psalm 11:7

The Lord is righteous and loves righteous deeds.

Micah 6:8

God requires justice, mercy, and humble walking with Him.

Spiritual Principle

God’s covenant never requires Him to compromise:

Justice.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God of grace is never indifferent to wrongdoing.

XXXII. GOD HATES ROBBERY

Worship cannot justify:

Exploitation.

Spiritual Principle

God sees:

How people acquire what they possess.

XXXIII. IN FAITHFULNESS HE REWARDS

God’s restoration rests upon:

His character.

Spiritual Principle

Covenant blessing depends on:

Divine faithfulness.

XXXIV. EVERLASTING COVENANT

The promise is:

Durable.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not restore His people on a temporary contract.

XXXV. DESCENDANTS KNOWN AMONG THE NATIONS

Isaiah 61:9 — A Visible Blessing

> **“Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed.”**

The blessing becomes:

Visible.

Generational.

Public.

Cross References

Genesis 12:3

God promises Abraham that through him blessing will extend to all families of the earth.

Galatians 3:29

Those belonging to Christ are identified as Abraham’s offspring and heirs according to promise.

Romans 4:16

Paul explains that the promise rests on faith and grace so that it may be guaranteed to Abraham’s broader family of faith.

Spiritual Principle

God’s blessing creates:

Witness.

XXXVI. BLESSING REACHES DESCENDANTS

Restoration has:

Generational reach.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can turn one generation’s disgrace into another generation’s testimony.

XXXVII. RECOGNIZED AS BLESSED BY GOD

The point is not:

Human boasting.

But:

Divine recognition.

Spiritual Principle

The blessing points back to:

The Blesser.

XXXVIII. I DELIGHT GREATLY IN THE LORD

Isaiah 61:10 — Garments of Salvation

> **“I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For He has clothed me with garments of salvation and covered me with the robe of righteousness. As a bridegroom adorns himself like a priest with a crown, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels,”**

The response to salvation is:

Delight.

Joy.

Cross References

Revelation 19:8

The bride is clothed in fine linen connected with the righteous deeds of God’s holy people.

Galatians 3:27

Those baptized into Christ are described as having put on Christ.

Isaiah 62:5

The relationship between God and His restored people is pictured with the joy of bridegroom and bride.

Spiritual Principle

Salvation changes:

What covers us.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not merely remove filthy garments; He clothes His people with salvation and righteousness.

XXXIX. “I DELIGHT GREATLY”

This is not:

Cold religion.

Spiritual Principle

Salvation produces:

Joy in God.

XL. “MY GOD”

The language is:

Personal.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Theology becomes worship when “the God” becomes “my God.”

XLI. GARMENTS OF SALVATION

Salvation becomes:

Clothing.

Identity.

Covering.

Spiritual Principle

God covers what sin exposed.

XLII. ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

The restored person is clothed in:

Righteousness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The believer’s greatest covering is not reputation but righteousness provided by God.

XLIII. BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE

The imagery is:

Festive.

Beautiful.

Covenantal.

Spiritual Principle

Redemption leads toward:

Celebration.

XLIV. RIGHTEOUSNESS SPRINGS UP

Isaiah 61:11 — God Causes the Growth

> **“So the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all nations, just as the soil makes the sprout come up, and as a garden causes seeds to grow.”**

Righteousness:

Grows.

Praise:

Grows.

God:

Causes it.

Cross References

Isaiah 55:11

God’s Word accomplishes His purpose like rain that produces growth.

2 Corinthians 9:10

God supplies seed to the sower and multiplies the harvest of righteousness.

Psalm 85:11

Faithfulness springs from the earth while righteousness looks down from heaven.

Spiritual Principle

Righteousness is:

Cultivated by God’s grace.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The same God who makes seed rise from soil can make righteousness rise from ruined lives.

XLV. RIGHTEOUSNESS BEFORE THE NATIONS

Restoration becomes:

Public witness.

Spiritual Principle

Holiness has:

Missionary value.

XLVI. PRAISE BEFORE ALL NATIONS

The chapter ends where mission should end:

Worship.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God grows righteousness so that praise can grow beside it.

XLVII. ISAIAH 60 AND ISAIAH 61

Isaiah 60

Zion:

Arises and shines.

Isaiah 61

The Spirit-anointed One:

Brings the mission that produces restoration.

Key Truth

Isaiah 60 shows the glory of restored Zion; Isaiah 61 reveals the Spirit-anointed ministry behind that restoration.

XLVIII. ISAIAH 59–61

Isaiah 59

The Redeemer comes.

Isaiah 60

The glory rises.

Isaiah 61

The Anointed One speaks.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Redeemer, glory, and Spirit-anointed mission belong together in Isaiah’s vision.

XLIX. ISAIAH 53 AND ISAIAH 61

Isaiah 53

The Servant suffers:

For sin.

Isaiah 61

The Anointed One proclaims:

Freedom.

Healing.

Favor.

Spiritual Principle

The good news of Isaiah 61 rests naturally after the saving work of the Servant.

L. ISAIAH 58 AND ISAIAH 61

Isaiah 58

Repairers rebuild:

Ancient ruins.

Isaiah 61

Restored people rebuild:

Ancient ruins.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

True revival does not leave ruins untouched.

LI. ISAIAH 56 AND ISAIAH 61

Isaiah 56

God’s people become:

A house of prayer for nations.

Isaiah 61

God’s people become:

Priests of the Lord.

Spiritual Principle

Prayer and priestly service belong:

Together.

LII. ISAIAH 55 AND ISAIAH 61

Isaiah 55

Good news is offered:

Freely.

Isaiah 61

Good news is proclaimed:

To the humble.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Grace not only prepares the feast; grace sends a herald to announce it.

LIII. JESUS AND ISAIAH 61

Luke 4 makes the connection:

Explicit.

Jesus reads:

This passage.

Then says:

Fulfilled.

Key Truth

The New Testament does not merely suggest that Jesus resembles Isaiah's Anointed One; Jesus publicly identifies His mission with this passage.

LIV. THE SPIRIT AND THE MESSIAH

Spirit upon Him.

Anointed.

Sent.

Spiritual Principle

Messianic ministry is:

Spirit-empowered.

LV. GOOD NEWS AND THE POOR

The good news is not:

Reserved for elite.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The gospel sounds especially good to people who know they cannot purchase what they need.

LVI. HEALING AND THE BROKENHEARTED

Broken hearts are not:

Invisible.

Spiritual Principle

God cares about:

Inner wounds.

LVII. LIBERTY AND CAPTIVITY

The Messiah is:

Liberator.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Every chain should be evaluated by whether Christ came to preserve it or break it.

LVIII. FAVOR AND JUBILEE

Freedom.

Restoration.

Return.

Spiritual Principle

The Messiah announces:

Release.

LIX. VENGEANCE AND JUSTICE

God’s salvation is not:

Indifference to evil.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Comfort for victims requires that evil not be treated as morally insignificant forever.

LX. MOURNING AND COMFORT

God enters:

Grief.

Spiritual Principle

Mourning is not:

Disqualifying.

LXI. ASHES AND BEAUTY

Exchange.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Grace is the great “instead of” of Isaiah 61.

LXII. MOURNING AND JOY

Exchange.

Spiritual Principle

Sorrow can be:

Transformed.

LXIII. DESPAIR AND PRAISE

Exchange.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can put a new song where despair had built a home.

LXIV. OAKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Strong.

Rooted.

Stable.

Spiritual Principle

Righteousness strengthens:

Character.

LXV. GOD’S PLANTING

Source.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

If God plants the tree, God deserves the praise for the strength of the oak.

LXVI. REBUILDING RUINS

Mission after healing.

Spiritual Principle

Restored people receive:

Assignments.

LXVII. GENERATIONAL DEVASTATION

Long damage.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Generational ruin can be answered by generational faithfulness.

LXVIII. STRANGERS AS HELPERS

Unexpected partnership.

Spiritual Principle

God can use:

Others.

LXIX. PRIESTS

Representation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Priestly identity is not merely honor; it is responsibility to serve before God and represent Him faithfully.

LXX. MINISTERS

Service.

Spiritual Principle

Redemption produces:

Ministry.

LXXI. DOUBLE FOR SHAME

Restoration.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not always restore by returning exactly what was lost; sometimes His grace answers shame with abundance.

LXXII. EVERLASTING JOY

Permanent future.

Spiritual Principle

God’s final word is:

Joy.

LXXIII. GOD LOVES JUSTICE

Moral character.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Any spirituality that ignores justice has failed to reflect the God who says He loves it.

LXXIV. GOD HATES ROBBERY

Moral seriousness.

Spiritual Principle

God cares about:

Wrongdoing.

LXXV. FAITHFUL REWARD

Covenant consistency.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s faithfulness is not sentiment; it acts.

LXXVI. DESCENDANTS AMONG NATIONS

Generational witness.

Spiritual Principle

God’s blessing becomes:

Visible history.

LXXVII. PEOPLE LORD HAS BLESSED

Identity.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The best reputation is not “self-made” but “the Lord has blessed them.”

LXXVIII. DELIGHT IN LORD

Response.

Spiritual Principle

Salvation should create:

Worship.

LXXIX. SOUL REJOICES

Inner joy.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The gospel reaches deeper than behavior; it teaches the soul to rejoice.

LXXX. CLOTHED WITH SALVATION

New identity.

Spiritual Principle

Grace covers:

Shame.

LXXXI. ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Standing before God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The robe matters because our own moral rags were never enough.

LXXXII. BRIDEGROOM BEAUTY

Celebration.

Spiritual Principle

Salvation is:

Festive.

LXXXIII. BRIDE ADORNED

Covenant joy.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s restoration does not leave His people dressed in the ashes of their former condition.

LXXXIV. GARDEN GROWTH

Organic.

Spiritual Principle

God brings:

Fruit.

LXXXV. RIGHTEOUSNESS SPRINGS

Visible.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

True righteousness is not buried forever; eventually it breaks the surface.

LXXXVI. PRAISE SPRINGS

Worship grows.

Spiritual Principle

Grace produces:

Praise.

LXXXVII. BEFORE ALL NATIONS

Missionary visibility.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s garden is meant to be seen.

LXXXVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 61 TEACHES ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Spirit empowers:

Mission.

Spiritual Principle

God’s work requires:

God’s power.

LXXXIX. WHAT ISAIAH 61 TEACHES ABOUT CHRIST

Jesus explicitly applies this passage to:

His ministry.

Key Truth

Isaiah 61 is one of the strongest Old Testament passages for understanding Jesus as the Spirit-anointed Messiah.

XC. WHAT ISAIAH 61 TEACHES ABOUT THE GOSPEL

Good news.

Freedom.

Healing.

Favor.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The gospel is good news because it addresses people’s deepest bondage, guilt, grief, and brokenness.

XCI. WHAT ISAIAH 61 TEACHES ABOUT BROKENHEARTED PEOPLE

They are not:

Forgotten.

Spiritual Principle

Christ draws near to:

Broken hearts.

XCII. WHAT ISAIAH 61 TEACHES ABOUT CAPTIVES

Captivity is not:

Final.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A prison is never stronger than the One holding the key.

XCIII. WHAT ISAIAH 61 TEACHES ABOUT MOURNING

God gives:

Comfort.

Beauty.

Joy.

Praise.

Spiritual Principle

God does not despise:

Grief.

XCIV. WHAT ISAIAH 61 TEACHES ABOUT RESTORATION

Restored people rebuild:

Ruins.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Personal healing should eventually create public usefulness.

XCV. WHAT ISAIAH 61 TEACHES ABOUT PRIESTHOOD

God’s people are:

Servants.

Representatives.

Spiritual Principle

Calling includes:

Ministry.

XCVI. WHAT ISAIAH 61 TEACHES ABOUT SHAME

Shame can be:

Reversed.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Grace has the authority to rename a life shame tried to define.

XCVII. WHAT ISAIAH 61 TEACHES ABOUT JOY

Joy becomes:

Everlasting.

Spiritual Principle

God’s salvation has:

Emotional fruit.

XCVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 61 TEACHES ABOUT JUSTICE

God:

Loves it.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God who announces favor also announces what He loves morally.

XCIX. WHAT ISAIAH 61 TEACHES ABOUT COVENANT

Everlasting.

Spiritual Principle

God’s commitment has:

Permanence.

C. WHAT ISAIAH 61 TEACHES ABOUT RIGHTEOUSNESS

It is:

A robe.

An oak.

A growing plant.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Isaiah pictures righteousness as something that covers, strengthens, and grows.

CI. WHAT ISAIAH 61 TEACHES ABOUT PRAISE

Praise replaces:

Despair.

Then grows before:

Nations.

Spiritual Principle

Restoration has:

A voice.

CII. THE GREAT “INSTEAD OF” OF ISAIAH 61

Instead of:

Ashes—

Beauty.

Instead of:

Mourning—

Joy.

Instead of:

Despair—

Praise.

Instead of:

Shame—

Double portion.

Instead of:

Disgrace—

Inheritance.

Key Truth

The grace of God does not merely subtract misery; it replaces it with the fruit of redemption.

CIII. THE ANOINTED ONE'S FIVEFOLD MISSION

1. Bring Good News

2. Heal the Brokenhearted

3. Proclaim Liberty

4. Announce God's Favor

5. Comfort Mourners

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Messiah's mission reaches mind, heart, bondage, guilt, grief, and future hope.

CIV. THE PEOPLE'S FIVEFOLD TRANSFORMATION

1. Mourners Become Joyful

2. Broken Become Oaks

3. Ruined Become Rebuilders

4. Shamed Become Priests

5. Disgraced Become Witnesses of Blessing

Spiritual Principle

Messianic ministry creates:

Transformed people.

CV. RESTORATION IS NOT PASSIVE

They rebuild.

Serve.

Minister.

Praise.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Grace heals the wounded and then puts tools into their hands.

CVI. THE CHURCH AND ISAIAH 61

The New Testament applies priestly identity to:

Believers.

Yet we should preserve Isaiah’s original context concerning:

Zion.

Israel.

Restoration.

The church participates in the Messiah’s mission as:

His people.

But does not replace the Messiah as:

The Anointed One.

Key Truth

Christ uniquely fulfills the Anointed Servant role; His people participate in proclaiming and embodying the good news that belongs to Him.

CVII. SPIRIT EMPOWERMENT IS NOT SELF-EXALTATION

The Spirit comes so the Servant can:

Serve.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

If our idea of anointing makes us more impressed with ourselves than more committed to the broken, we have misunderstood Isaiah 61.

CVIII. ANOINTING AND MISSION

Anointed:

To bring.

Heal.

Proclaim.

Open.

Comfort.

Spiritual Principle

Anointing has:

Purpose.

CIX. GOOD NEWS AND HUMILITY

The humble receive:

Good news.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Pride says, “I need nothing.”

Grace says, “Come because you know you need everything.”

CX. HEALING AND TRUTH

Broken hearts are healed without:

Pretending they were never broken.

Spiritual Principle

Biblical healing is:

Honest.

CXI. LIBERTY AND LORDSHIP

Freedom in Scripture is not:

Freedom from God.

It is freedom for:

God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Christ does not free captives so they can find a new master; He frees them to belong rightly to Him.

CXII. FAVOR AND RESPONSE

The favorable year is:

Proclaimed.

Spiritual Principle

Grace invites:

Response.

CXIII. COMFORT AND JUSTICE

Comfort appears beside:

Vengeance.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s comfort is credible because evil will not be allowed to remain victorious forever.

CXIV. BEAUTY AND ASHES

The ashes were:

Real.

The beauty is:

Also real.

Spiritual Principle

Restoration does not deny:

History.

CXV. JOY AND MOURNING

Joy does not mean:

The mourning never mattered.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can honor the grief and still write joy afterward.

CXVI. PRAISE AND DESPAIR

Praise grows where despair once:

Pressed down.

Spiritual Principle

Worship can become evidence of:

Healing.

CXVII. OAKS AND ROOTS

Strength comes through:

Rootedness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s goal is not merely to make you feel better but to make you stand stronger.

CXVIII. PLANTED FOR GLORY

Purpose.

Spiritual Principle

Stability serves:

Witness.

CXIX. REBUILDERS OF GENERATIONAL RUINS

Restoration reaches:

History.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

One generation under God can begin repairing what several generations damaged.

CXX. FOREIGNERS IN THE FIELDS

New relationships.

Spiritual Principle

God can reorder:

Social patterns.

CXXI. PRIESTS AND MINISTERS

Identity centered on:

God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The highest title in Isaiah 61 is not owner, ruler, or celebrity—it is servant of God.

CXXII. WEALTH OF NATIONS

Material provision.

Spiritual Principle

Resources serve:

Calling.

CXXIII. DOUBLE PORTION

Abundance.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Shame calculates loss; grace speaks inheritance.

CXXIV. EVERLASTING JOY

Durable blessing.

Spiritual Principle

God’s future outlasts:

Past pain.

CXXV. JUSTICE LOVED

God’s affection has:

Moral content.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not merely do justice reluctantly; He says He loves it.

CXXVI. ROBBERY HATED

God opposes:

Exploitation.

Spiritual Principle

Worship and ethics cannot be:

Separated.

CXXVII. FAITHFULNESS

God acts according to:

Promise.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The everlasting covenant rests on an everlasting God.

CXXVIII. DESCENDANTS BLESSED

Visible legacy.

Spiritual Principle

Restoration becomes:

Generational testimony.

CXXIX. DELIGHT IN LORD

Personal joy.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The greatest evidence of salvation may be that the soul begins to enjoy God.

CXXX. CLOTHING OF SALVATION

Covered.

Spiritual Principle

God provides:

What sinners lack.

CXXXI. ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Dignity.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Grace does not leave the forgiven sinner standing spiritually naked.

CXXXII. WEDDING IMAGERY

Joy.

Beauty.

Covenant.

Spiritual Principle

Salvation moves toward:

Celebration.

CXXXIII. SOIL AND SPROUT

Growth.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s righteousness may begin like a sprout, but He knows how to grow a garden.

CXXXIV. GARDEN AND SEED

Fruitfulness.

Spiritual Principle

Grace produces:

Life.

CXXXV. RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PRAISE TOGETHER

Character.

Worship.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God wants both a righteous life and a praising mouth.

CXXXVI. ISAIAH 61 AS A CHRISTOLOGICAL CHAPTER

Spirit.

Anointing.

Good news.

Liberty.

Favor.

Jesus declares:

Fulfillment.

Key Truth

The center of Isaiah 61 is not merely a principle of ministry but the Spirit-anointed Messiah who embodies and fulfills the mission.

CXXXVII. ISAIAH 61 AS A RESTORATION CHAPTER

Heal.

Comfort.

Beauty.

Joy.

Praise.

Rebuild.

Restore.

Spiritual Principle

God specializes in:

Restoration.

CXXXVIII. ISAIAH 61 AS A PRIESTLY CHAPTER

Priests.

Ministers.

Service.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Those restored by grace are called to represent grace.

CXXXIX. ISAIAH 61 AS A COVENANT CHAPTER

Everlasting covenant.

Descendants.

Nations.

Spiritual Principle

God’s restoration has:

Continuity.

CXL. ISAIAH 61 AS A JOY CHAPTER

Oil of joy.

Everlasting joy.

Soul rejoices.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The chapter begins with broken hearts and ends with delighted souls.

CXLI. ISAIAH 61 AS A RIGHTEOUSNESS CHAPTER

Oaks of righteousness.

Robe of righteousness.

Righteousness springs up.

Key Truth

Righteousness in Isaiah 61 becomes identity, stability, clothing, growth, and public testimony.

CXLII. ISAIAH 61 AS A PRAISE CHAPTER

Garment of praise.

Praise springs up.

Spiritual Principle

Grace changes:

The vocabulary of the redeemed.

CXLIII. TWELVE GREAT CONTRASTS IN ISAIAH 61

1. Brokenhearted → Healed

2. Captive → Free

3. Bound → Released

4. Mourning → Comfort

5. Ashes → Beauty

6. Mourning → Joy

7. Despair → Praise

8. Fragility → Oaks of Righteousness

9. Ruins → Rebuilt Cities

10. Shame → Double Portion

11. Disgrace → Everlasting Joy

12. Spiritual Nakedness → Garments of Salvation and Righteousness

Key Truth

Isaiah 61 is a chapter of holy reversal in which the Spirit-anointed Messiah transforms what sin, grief, judgment, captivity, and shame appeared to make permanent.

CXLIV. TWELVE GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH 61

1. True Ministry Requires the Spirit

Principle:

Human effort cannot replace divine anointing.

2. The Gospel Is Good News for the Needy

Principle:

Grace meets people who know their poverty.

3. Christ Heals Broken Hearts

Principle:

The Messiah cares about inward wounds.

4. Christ Proclaims Freedom

Principle:

Bondage is not the final word.

5. God Comforts Mourners

Principle:

Grief is seen and answered.

6. God Replaces Ashes with Beauty

Principle:

Grace creates holy replacement.

7. Restored People Become Restorers

Principle:

Those healed by God can help rebuild what is broken.

8. God Calls His People to Priestly Service

Principle:

Redemption leads to ministry.

9. God Replaces Shame with Inheritance

Principle:

His restoration is abundant.

10. God Loves Justice

Principle:

Spirituality and righteousness cannot be separated.

11. Salvation Clothes the Redeemed

Principle:

God provides righteous covering.

12. God Causes Righteousness and Praise to Grow

Principle:

The final fruit belongs to His grace.

CXLV. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Who is upon the speaker in verse 1?

The Spirit of the Lord God.

Question 2

Why has the Lord anointed Him?

To bring good news, healing, liberty, release, favor, and comfort.

Question 3

Who explicitly applies this passage to Himself in the New Testament?

Jesus Christ.

Question 4

Where does Jesus read Isaiah 61?

In the synagogue at Nazareth.

Question 5

What does Jesus say after reading it?

That the Scripture is fulfilled in the hearing of those present.

Question 6

To whom is good news brought?

The humble.

Question 7

Who receives healing?

The brokenhearted.

Question 8

What is proclaimed to captives?

Liberty.

Question 9

What happens to those bound?

Their prison is opened.

Question 10

What year is proclaimed?

The year of the Lord’s favor.

Question 11

What else is announced?

The day of God’s vengeance.

Question 12

Who receives comfort?

Those who mourn.

Question 13

What replaces ashes?

Beauty.

Question 14

What replaces mourning?

The oil of joy.

Question 15

What replaces despair?

The garment of praise.

Question 16

What are the restored called?

Oaks of righteousness.

Question 17

Who planted them?

The Lord.

Question 18

Why did He plant them?

For His glory.

Question 19

What do restored people rebuild?

Ancient ruins and long-devastated cities.

Question 20

What title is given to God’s people?

Priests of the Lord and ministers of God.

Question 21

What replaces shame?

A double portion and inheritance.

Question 22

What kind of joy is promised?

Everlasting joy.

Question 23

What does God love?

Justice.

Question 24

What does He hate?

Robbery and wrongdoing.

Question 25

What covenant does He establish?

An everlasting covenant.

Question 26

Who sees the blessing upon God’s people?

The nations.

Question 27

What clothes the rejoicing person?

Garments of salvation and a robe of righteousness.

Question 28

What images describe that clothing?

A beautifully adorned bridegroom and bride.

Question 29

What does God cause to spring up?

Righteousness and praise.

Question 30

Before whom do righteousness and praise grow?

All nations.

CXLVI. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 61 asks several searching questions.

Am I Trying to Do God's Work in:

My own strength?

Or am I depending upon:

The Holy Spirit?

Do I Understand That Anointing Is for:

Mission?

Service?

People?

Am I Carrying Good News to:

The humble?

Is My Ministry Sensitive to:

Broken hearts?

Or only visible behavior?

What Captivity Do I Need Christ to:

Break?

What Prison Door Do I Need Him to:

Open?

Am I living in the freedom:

He gives?

Have I received the:

Lord's favor?

Is there mourning in my life that I have assumed will:

Never change?

What ashes am I still:

Holding?

Can I believe God can give:

Beauty?

Am I wearing:

Despair?

When God offers:

Praise?

Am I becoming:

Rooted?

Stable?

An oak of righteousness?

Does my life exist for:

God’s glory?

What ancient ruin might God be calling me to:

Rebuild?

What broken place has lasted for:

Generations?

Could God use me in:

Restoration?

Do I see myself as:

A priest?

A servant?

A minister of God?

Has shame become my:

Identity?

Or am I receiving God’s:

Inheritance?

Do I love:

Justice?

Do I hate:

Wrongdoing?

Do my beliefs match:

God’s moral concerns?

Is God’s covenant faithfulness shaping:

My confidence?

Am I passing blessing to:

Future generations?

Do I delight:

Greatly in the Lord?

Am I clothed in:

His salvation?

His righteousness?

Is righteousness:

Growing?

Is praise:

Growing?

Can people see God’s grace through:

My life?

CXLVII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“The Spirit Anoints Us for Service, Not Self-Importance”

The Anointed One is sent to:

Broken people.

Captives.

Mourners.

Principle:

The clearest evidence of Spirit-empowered ministry is not self-exaltation but faithful service to people God loves.

CXLVIII. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“The Messiah Does Not Decorate Chains—He Proclaims Liberty”

Captives need:

Freedom.

Principle:

Christ’s mission confronts whatever enslaves people spiritually and calls them into true freedom under God.

CXLIX. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Grace Is God’s Great ‘Instead Of’”

Ashes:

Beauty.

Mourning:

Joy.

Despair:

Praise.

Shame:

Inheritance.

Principle:

God’s restoration is not merely subtraction; it is redemptive replacement.

CL. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“The Healed Become Rebuilders”

Verse 3:

Healed and restored people.

Verse 4:

Rebuilders.

Principle:

God often turns yesterday’s wounded people into tomorrow’s restorers.

CLI. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Never Confuse ‘Devastated for Generations’ with ‘Impossible to Restore’”

Ancient ruins.

Long devastation.

Still:

Rebuilt.

Principle:

Time may deepen damage, but it does not weaken God’s ability to restore.

CLII. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“The Highest Calling of the Restored Is Not Celebrity but Priesthood”

Priests.

Ministers.

Principle:

God restores people so they can serve before Him and represent Him faithfully.

CLIII. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“The Robe God Gives Is Better Than the Reputation Shame Took Away”

Garments of salvation.

Robe of righteousness.

Principle:

God’s verdict is stronger than human disgrace.

CLIV. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“God Can Grow Righteousness Where Ruins Once Stood”

Garden imagery.

Principle:

The Lord who rebuilds cities also cultivates character.

CLV. SPIRIT UPON THE SERVANT

Source:

God.

Spiritual Principle

Ministry is:

Dependent.

CLVI. ANOINTED BY THE LORD

Authority:

Divine.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Self-confidence cannot substitute for divine calling.

CLVII. GOOD NEWS

Message:

Hope.

Spiritual Principle

The gospel is:

Announcement.

CLVIII. HUMBLE RECIPIENTS

Posture:

Need.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Grace sounds sweetest to people who have stopped pretending they are self-sufficient.

CLIX. BROKENHEARTED

Pain:

Internal.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus ministers to:

Hidden wounds.

CLX. CAPTIVES

Bondage.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

No chain gets the final word when the Redeemer declares liberty.

CLXI. PRISONERS

Confinement.

Spiritual Principle

God’s salvation opens:

Doors.

CLXII. FAVOR

Grace.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The favorable year announces that God is moving toward His people in mercy.

CLXIII. VENGEANCE

Justice.

Spiritual Principle

God does not leave:

Evil unanswered.

CLXIV. MOURNERS

Sorrow.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God never treats tears as theological inconvenience.

CLXV. BEAUTY

Restoration.

Spiritual Principle

Grace dignifies.

CLXVI. JOY

Renewal.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can restore emotional strength without denying previous pain.

CLXVII. PRAISE

New response.

Spiritual Principle

Healing becomes:

Worship.

CLXVIII. OAKS

Strength.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not merely rescue His people from falling; He roots them so they can stand.

CLXIX. RIGHTEOUSNESS

Character.

Spiritual Principle

Restoration is:

Moral.

CLXX. PLANTING

God’s work.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Grace takes responsibility for both planting and growth.

CLXXI. GLORY

Purpose.

Spiritual Principle

Restoration points to:

God.

CLXXII. REBUILD

Action.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A healed heart should eventually produce useful hands.

CLXXIII. RESTORE

Mission.

Spiritual Principle

God creates:

Repairers.

CLXXIV. RENEW

New life in:

Old places.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The age of the ruin does not determine the limit of renewal.

CLXXV. FOREIGN HELP

Unexpected provision.

Spiritual Principle

God can send help from:

Outside familiar circles.

CLXXVI. PRIESTLY IDENTITY

Calling.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The restored community becomes a serving community.

CLXXVII. MINISTRY

Purpose.

Spiritual Principle

Salvation produces:

Service.

CLXXVIII. SHAME REVERSED

Honor.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Shame looks backward; inheritance looks forward.

CLXXIX. DOUBLE PORTION

Abundance.

Spiritual Principle

God’s restoration can exceed:

Human calculations.

CLXXX. EVERLASTING JOY

Endurance.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Temporary shame cannot outlast everlasting joy.

CLXXXI. JUSTICE

God’s love.

Spiritual Principle

Justice reflects:

His character.

CLXXXII. WRONGDOING

God’s hatred.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s love never requires moral indifference.

CLXXXIII. COVENANT

Security.

Spiritual Principle

God binds Himself in:

Faithfulness.

CLXXXIV. DESCENDANTS

Legacy.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Restoration becomes even more beautiful when children inherit testimony instead of shame.

CLXXXV. DELIGHT

Joy in:

God.

Spiritual Principle

Salvation should produce:

Affection.

CLXXXVI. GARMENT OF SALVATION

Covering.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

What sin left exposed, salvation covers.

CLXXXVII. ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Standing.

Spiritual Principle

God supplies:

Righteousness.

CLXXXVIII. BRIDEGROOM

Celebration.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s salvation is not dressed for a funeral; it is dressed for a wedding.

CLXXXIX. BRIDE

Beauty.

Spiritual Principle

Restoration includes:

Joyful identity.

CXC. SOIL

Potential.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God knows how to work with soil that looks empty.

CXCI. SPROUT

Beginning.

Spiritual Principle

Do not despise:

Early growth.

CXCII. GARDEN

Fruitfulness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s goal is not one isolated sprout but a garden of righteousness and praise.

CXCIII. NATIONS SEE

Witness.

Spiritual Principle

God’s work becomes:

Public.

CXCIV. TEN GREAT MOVEMENTS IN ISAIAH 61

1. The Spirit Rests Upon the Anointed One

His mission begins with divine empowerment.

2. Good News Reaches the Humble

The needy receive hope.

3. Broken Hearts and Captives Receive Restoration

Healing and liberty are proclaimed.

4. The Lord’s Favor Is Announced

Grace opens the way for restoration.

5. Mourning Is Replaced

Ashes become beauty, mourning becomes joy, and despair becomes praise.

6. The Restored Become Oaks and Rebuilders

God gives stability and purpose.

7. God’s People Receive Priestly Identity

They become ministers of the Lord.

8. Shame Is Reversed

Double inheritance and everlasting joy replace disgrace.

9. God Establishes an Everlasting Covenant

Justice and faithfulness govern His restoration.

10. Salvation Produces Righteousness and Praise

God’s redeemed people become a visible garden before the nations.

Key Truth

Isaiah 61 moves from Spirit-anointed proclamation to comprehensive restoration as the Messiah brings good news, liberty, healing, favor, comfort, righteousness, service, covenant blessing, and praise.

CXCV. FINAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 61 begins with:

The Spirit.

That matters.

Before:

Good news.

Before:

Healing.

Before:

Liberty.

Before:

Rebuilding.

There is:

The Spirit of the Lord.

God’s work must be done:

God’s way.

Through:

God’s power.

Then the Anointed One says:

> **“He has sent me.”**

Mission begins with:

Sending.

Not:

Self-promotion.

Then:

Good news to:

The humble.

Healing for:

Broken hearts.

Liberty for:

Captives.

Open doors for:

Prisoners.

This is Jesus' mission.

Maybe you are:

Brokenhearted.

Maybe there is a place inside you that feels:

Crushed.

Maybe you have carried:

A wound.

Loss.

Betrayal.

Grief.

Jesus says:

Healing.

Maybe you feel:

Bound.

Habit.

Sin.

Fear.

Bitterness.

Shame.

Jesus says:

Liberty.

Maybe you feel:

Imprisoned.

Jesus says:

The prison can:

Open.

Then comes:

The year of favor.

God is not merely saying:

Endure.

He is announcing:

Grace.

Then He addresses:

Mourners.

And He gives:

Beauty instead of ashes.

What ashes are in your hands?

The remains of:

Something burned.

Something lost.

Something dead.

Something destroyed.

God says:

Beauty.

Then:

Joy instead of mourning.

Not because mourning was:

Fake.

But because mourning is not:

Permanent.

Then:

Praise instead of despair.

Maybe despair has become something you:

Wear.

God says:

I have another garment.

Praise.

Then:

Oaks of righteousness.

Notice the movement.

Brokenhearted.

Then:

Oak.

Mourner.

Then:

Rebuilder.

Captive.

Then:

Priest.

Ashes.

Then:

Beauty.

Shame.

Then:

Inheritance.

That is what grace does.

Then verse 4 says:

“They will rebuild.”

Who?

The same people who were:

Mourning.

God does not merely heal you so you can say:

I feel better.

He may heal you so you can:

Rebuild.

There may be:

Ancient ruins.

Family ruins.

Church ruins.

Community ruins.

Generational ruins.

And God may use:

You.

Do not say:

It has been broken too long.

Isaiah says:

> **“Devastated for generations.”**

And still:

Rebuilt.

Then God says:

> **“You will be called priests of the Lord.”**

Your greatest identity is not:

Victim.

Failure.

Rejected.

Forgotten.

Ash-covered.

Your calling is:

Servant of God.

Then:

> **“Instead of your shame…”**

There it is again.

Instead of.

Shame does not get to decide:

Your inheritance.

God does.

Then He says:

“I love justice.”

That means true restoration is not:

Sentimental.

God cares about:

Right.

Wrong.

Fairness.

Truth.

He hates:

Robbery.

Wrongdoing.

Then comes:

Covenant.

Everlasting.

Then descendants.

Then nations.

Then testimony.

Then verse 10 becomes:

A song.

“I delight greatly in the Lord.”

That is where restored people should arrive.

Not merely:

I got my life back.

But:

I delight in God.

Why?

Because He clothed me.

Salvation.

Righteousness.

He took:

Ashes.

He gave:

Beauty.

He took:

Shame.

He gave:

Inheritance.

He took:

Despair.

He gave:

Praise.

Then the chapter ends with:

A garden.

God causes:

Righteousness.

Praise.

To:

Spring up.

Maybe right now you only see:

Soil.

Do not underestimate:

Soil.

There may be seed:

Underneath.

There may be life:

Beginning.

God knows how to:

Grow.

So Isaiah 61 says:

Depend on the Spirit.

Receive the good news.

Bring your broken heart to Christ.

Walk out of captivity.

Receive God’s favor.

Give Him your ashes.

Let Him replace mourning with joy.

Let Him replace despair with praise.

Become rooted.

Become righteous.

Become a rebuilder.

Serve as a priest.

Reject shame.

Receive inheritance.

Love justice.

Delight in God.

Wear salvation.

Walk in righteousness.

And trust God to make:

Righteousness and praise.

Spring up before:

The nations.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for:

The Anointed One.

Thank You for:

Jesus Christ.

Thank You that Your Spirit rested upon Him and that He came with:

Good news.

Healing.

Liberty.

Favor.

Comfort.

Father, bring good news into every:

Discouraged heart.

Heal:

The brokenhearted.

Set free:

The captive.

Open every prison that sin has:

Built.

Comfort those who:

Mourn.

Father, take our:

Ashes.

Give:

Beauty.

Take our:

Mourning.

Give:

Joy.

Take our:

Despair.

Give:

Praise.

Plant us as:

Oaks of righteousness.

Root us deeply in:

Truth.

Holiness.

Grace.

Faith.

Make our lives bring:

Glory to You.

Father, use us to:

Rebuild.

Restore.

Renew.

Show us the ancient ruins that need:

Repair.

Show us the generational damage that needs:

Healing.

Give us courage to believe:

Nothing is too old for restoration.

Father, make us faithful:

Priests.

Servants.

Ministers.

Help us represent:

You.

Not ourselves.

Replace shame with:

Inheritance.

Disgrace with:

Joy.

Give us confidence in Your:

Everlasting covenant.

Teach us to love:

Justice.

Hate:

Wrongdoing.

Walk:

Faithfully.

Father, let our children and descendants see:

Your blessing.

Let our lives become:

Testimony.

Clothe us with:

Salvation.

Cover us with:

Righteousness.

Teach our souls to:

Rejoice.

And just as a garden brings forth what has been planted:

Cause righteousness to:

Spring up.

Cause praise to:

Spring up.

Let the nations see:

Your glory.

Your grace.

Your salvation.

Your faithfulness.

And may everything You restore in us become:

A testimony to Jesus Christ,

The Spirit-anointed Savior.

In His name,

Amen.

Key Verse

> **“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the humble. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and to open the prison for those who are bound.” — Isaiah 61:1**

Central Truth

The Spirit-anointed Servant, fulfilled in Jesus Christ, comes to bring good news to the humble, heal broken hearts, free captives, proclaim God’s favor, comfort mourners, and replace ashes, grief, despair, and shame with beauty, joy, praise, righteousness, inheritance, and everlasting covenant blessing; those restored by Him become strong, priestly, rebuilding people through whom righteousness and praise spring up before the nations for the glory of God.

Isaiah 61 in One Sentence

Isaiah reveals the Spirit-anointed Messiah, fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who brings good news to the humble, heals broken hearts, frees captives, proclaims the Lord’s favor, comforts mourners, exchanges ashes for beauty, mourning for joy, despair for praise, and shame for inheritance, transforms the restored into righteous oaks, rebuilders and priests, establishes them in an everlasting covenant, clothes them with salvation and righteousness, and causes their righteousness and praise to flourish before all nations for the glory of God.